TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1997

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Now that the site has been secured, basic plans for communication equipment and supplies are beginning to materialize. We are preparing for take-off on the journey to the west side of Interstate 95, destination Fox Lake Park. The club will again set up and operate Field Day from the same pavilion this year. Thanks to the efforts of KS4GP, Warren, we are going to have a fun weekend. Be sure and make plans to come out and participate in the activities. Field Day will be held June 28-29, beginning Saturday noon and extending through noon Sunday. More about this event later.

We have had very good response from club members offering their assistance in the renovation of the school bus owned by the city. The bus will be converted into a Communication Center to be used for providing communications during emergencies as well as civic and community functions. There have been several informal visits to Fire Station No. 10 where the bus is located. Thanks to KE4KCT, Charlie, a preliminary drawing for the proposed floor plan/layout of equipment has been drawn up for presentation to the city for their review. Our club's interest and assistance in this project is appreciated by Fire Chief Harmer.

My thanks to Pike, W4EPU for the very interesting program at our last club meeting. His presentation of the just recently declassified documents regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis was an eye opener for me. With the awesome nuclear destructive capabilities of both the Soviet Union and the United States, I believe this confrontation placed mankind and civilization as we know it at the very edge of eternity. There surely must be a Higher Power that has granted us a reprieve.

Becky, KF4HTB and Sherry, KF4HTC are both feeling better. Sherry, you and Becky would have been proud of the ladies who filled in for you at the last club meeting. (See page 2)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APR 1 KF4LTZ GREGORY GAINES
APR. 2 KB3GK JOHN MUNSEY
APR. 2 KE4MFW WALLY GENTRY
APR. 3 AA4FY NORM FOSTER
APR. 4 KC4VMP JIM CLARK
APR. 6 KS4BD DARWIN McCOMBS
APR. 8 KE4HDF ANGIE DiMEO
APR. 8 KF4FEY PENNY COPELAND
APR.10 KC4VWA ETHEL GRINER
APR.10 NOZEQ RICHARD CRUMPTON
APR.10 KF4UN DAVE POST
APR.13 KF4LUA GWEN COLVIN
APR.13 KE4YQF MARY LORENZI
APR.18 N6USP BOBBY JONES
APR.22 WB4RIS JIM ROBINSON
APR.23 KT4CQ WILLIAM SIMANO
APR.23 W4BME JOHN LINK
APR.30 KD4LGI MIKE JACOBSON
APR.30 KB4RBU VERN BAUER

PRESIDENT (continued from page 1)
To all of you who prepared and/or served the food in their absence, you get an extra star.

The storm that passed through our area did a number on several of the club members antenna farm. I am - for the first time - without an outside antenna, and therefore TVI is not a problem on my street. For those who have lost their antenna(s) let us know and we will form a posse and try and get you back on the air.

Need to exercise? We got the solution for you! Drag that bicycle out of the garage and come join in with us to do some wheelies and enjoy the fun of being with a nice bunch of bicycle riders. Remember. Black Point Wildlife. Every Sunday morning at 7:30 AM. 7 + mile bike ride.

The Wednesday evening Advanced Class study group is coming along beautifully. Graduates and new Advanced licensees include Butch KE4YQN and Gene W8OFR. Congratulations, fellows. We are proud of you and are nipping at your heels. See you at the next club meeting. Bring a friend. 73's

CAVEAT EMPTOR

From Ozzie N4SCY via Bob WN4IIV

You've probably heard about the Mars Pathfinder probe. Once it lands on the Red Planet, Pathfinder will release the Sojourner Rover, a little laboratory on wheels. Sojourner will cruise about the Martian surface performing experiments. It turns out the Sojourner and Pathfinder will communicate using two standard, off-the-shelf 9600 baud radio modems.

According to Jet Propulsion Laboratory program manager Donna Shirley, the modem manufacturer warned JPL that sending the modem to Mars would void the warranty.

PRIZE OFFERED FOR HAM RADIO ADVANTAGES Vs CYBERSPACE

From IRARC Newsletter 3/97

Bill Eppley, W2SDB, announced that during his quests to recruit young people into our hobby, he has been faced with some strong objections from older folk (in one case the principal of a school).

These objections are based on the belief that cyberspace activities - especially almost instant communications via e-mail and via chat rooms - have made Amateur Radio obsolete. In his campaign Bill needs some ideas to support his contention that Ham communications are far from obsolete.

To encourage members to give him ideas he can use in his sales pitch in support of our hobby, Bill needs all the legitimate ammunition he can get. He has even established a "contest" in which all can enter by merely penning their ideas about Ham advantages and getting the papers to him. The best set of "ideas" will mean a prize of $20 to the author. Bill will be the final judge of which is the best submission. Deadline for getting your ideas to Bill is at or before the April 3 meeting. Bill can be contacted every Friday at the SMAH luncheon, or you can mail your ideas to him at 434 Adams Ave., Cape Canaveral, FL 342920.

The winning entry will be published in your newsletter. Let's defend our hobby! In addition to helping Bill, your ideas will surely enlighten others about the advantages of Amateur Radio over the impressive, but far from faultless, internet connection!

While on the subject of Bill Eppley, this might be an opportune time to remind our readers that Bill may be heard playing his beloved harmonica on WMMB (1240 on the AM dial) every morning between 0945 and 1000! Surely you don't want to miss this!

VISIT P3D LAB IN ORLANDO

From Florida Skip 3/97

Hams planning to visit the Orlando area this winter might enjoy seeing some Amateur Radio history in the making while there. Visitors are welcome at the Phase 3D International Satellite Integration Facility in Orlando. Hours are usually 9 AM to 6 PM on weekdays and 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturdays. If you'd actually like to get a chance to help make ham radio history, plan your visit for a Saturday, which is often an organized volunteer day when the P3D lab has tasks for all skill levels. So you might get a chance to actually lend a hand on the project.

The P3D lab is approximately two miles south of the Bee Line Toll road off Tradeport Road (which runs along the western perimeter of Orlando International Airport) at 4101 Lindy Circle, in the Free Trade Zone Building. For the next few months, visitors can expect to see the actual Phase 3D spacecraft in its clean-room facility, along with the full-size functional antenna mockup, payload modules under test and development, the P3D spin-balance test fixture and, of course, the P3D Lab staff!

To avoid disappointment, call ahead at 407-859-2344, to make sure someone will be there at the time you plan to visit. For more information, contact Rick Leon, KA1RHL, e-mail kalrhl@amsat.org or the Phase 3D Spacecraft Integration Facility, e-mail p3dlab@magicnet.net.

ARRL MEMBERS ASKED TO COMMENT

From ARRL Letter

ARRL members are being invited to add their ideas, comments and recommendations to those of the ARRL SRC-99 Planning Committee, which has suggested sweeping and potentially controversial changes to the Amateur Radio licensing structure in the US. On the table for open discussion and debate are proposals that include:

- elimination of the Novice license
- creation of a new Intermediate license to replace the Technician Plus
- greater hf privileges for intermediate licensees than for the existing technician plus, including phone on 160, 75 and 15 meters.
- a 10-WPM General CW test (with more stringent testing standards for all CW exams)

- expanded phone privileges for General class and higher licenses.

Details of the plan, discussed during the recent ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque, NM, will appear in March QST. The Board says it seeks comments from members to ensure that before any plan goes forward, it enjoys a broad support from the amateur community. The Board will not act on the issue at least until its July meeting.

After its research revealed that as many as three Novices in four are inactive, the committee concluded that the Novice license is no longer useful. Although the committee would end the Novice license, its plan provides current Novices with an easy means to upgrade (via an open-book test) to the new Intermediate class license, which would replace the current Technician Plus. All present Tech Plus licensees would become Intermediate licensees. The Basic license would supplant the Technician license - now the hobby's most popular entry-level ticket - with no changes in privileges. In addition, the committee's plan would phase out the current Novice and Tech Plus bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters, and replace them with new Intermediate-class allocations. The committee's consensus plan for Intermediate class licensees calls for new CW bands on 80, 40 and 15 meters starting 25 kHz up from the lower band edge, digital and phone-band privileges on 75 and 15 meters and a 50-kHz phone or CW segment at the top end of 160 meters, plus expanded Novice and Tech Plus CW and phone allocations on 10 meters.

According to the proposal, Intermediate CW bands would be 3525 to 3700 kHz, 7025 to 7050 kHz, 21025 to 21150 kHz and 28050 to 28300 kHz. Digital operation was suggested for 3600 to 3625, 21100 to 21125 and 28100 to 28189 kHz. Phone privileges would include 1950 to 2000, 3900 to 4000, 21350 to 21400, SSB from 28300 to 28500 and FM from 29500 to 29700 kHz. Transmitter power for Intermediate-class licenses would be limited to 200 W PEP output (other licensees using these bands would not be limited to 200 W, however).

General-class and higher amateurs also would benefit from the plan, if it's adopted according to the committee's outlines. General-class hams would get additional phone privileges 3800 to 3850, 7200 to 7225, and 21250 to 21300 kHz; Advanced-class hams would add 3725 to 3775, 7125 to 7150 and 21175 to 21225 kHz. Extra-class hams would also have 3700 to 3750, 7125 to 7150 and 21150 to 21200 kHz.

With the exception of 40 meters, where Novice and Tech Plus licensees already have privileges, the committee suggested no changes on the hobby's narrowest and most crowded bands - including 20 meters and the narrow WARC bands at 30, 17 and 12 meters.

The Intermediate CW test would be 5 WPM (the same as the Tech Plus requirement), but the committee proposed that the General class CW requirement be set at 10 WPM. There still would be no additional CW exam for the Advanced ticket, nor would there be any change in the 20 WPM requirement for the Extra. Exams for all classes would include a return to a sending test and the requirement for one minute of solid copy during a five minute test - instead of the current method that tests on the content of the CW text.

Right now, these major changes are only in the talking stage. "Let us be very clear about this," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, who characterized the committee's proposals as a starting point for discussion, not a done deal. "The changes are not ARRL policy; nothing has been proposed to, or by, the FCC, and the ARRL Board is committed to making no decision before its July, 1997 meeting." Sumner said there is no timetable to complete the process. Only after there is an opportunity for in-depth

consideration and discussion by the membership will the ARRL Board consider taking the next step to approach the FCC with a rulemaking proposal - a process that automatically invites additional comments and suggestions.

Between the time they receive March QST and the end of May, members are asked to voice their opinions on the committee's suggestions to their directors, whose postal and e-mail addresses are listed on page 10 of QST. All suggestions and comments - positive and negative - are welcome.

FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE PAGE MARCH 1997 QST

CB: PRO AND CON: I read the letter from Sam Drukman, KB2WYC, in December's "Correspondence" ("Don't Discount CB") with great interest. I started my radio career as a short-wave listener in 1981 and soon got into DXing the AM and FM broadcast bands and broadcast television. I became a CBer in 1984 after buying a base station at a hamfest for $15. It still works today.

While I've heard foul language on CB, let's not forget that CBers provide just as valuable a service to the community as we hams do. Take a look at the CBers who monitor Channel 9, the emergency channel. They perform a much-needed service by monitoring for emergencies that may arise, and by helping out whenever and wherever necessary. And if you simply need highway directions, there are few better places to find them than on the CB information channel, Channel 19.

While I was on CB (and I still get on CB on occasion), I generally followed rules concerning language that any commercial broadcaster would follow. I also applied those rules to my contacts on 2 meters. By contrast to KB2WYC's logbook, I made 58 contacts in the first seven months I was on 2 meters, and I've made 200 contacts in the four years since I received my Technician ticket. This falls back to the patience I learned as a broadcast band DXer. I've even worked some tropospheric scatter contacts using just an HT and a 5/8 wavelength ground-plane mounted in the attic.

Personally, I wouldn't discount CB either. CB frequencies are great places to listen for possible sporadic-E propagation. While there are jammers, people with bad manners and even pirate broadcasters, the majority use these frequencies for public service, general conversation and technical investigations. Many hams have come from the ranks of CBers, and I count myself as one of them. *Eric Bueneman, NOUIH, Hazelwood, Missouri*

♦I am a ham, not a CBer. I began my ham radio career using a two-tube transmitter in the 1960s that was tuned using the brilliance of a neon lamp to indicate proper operation. The receiver was a Hallicrafters S-38 that seemed to hear the entire band at once. In time, I graduated to a Heath HW-16 and arrived in heaven. I worked the world as a Novice.

Never having an Elmer (most new hams didn't) I struggled with construction techniques, antenna projects, theory, and good amateur operating practices. I can't remember a time when I had more fun than in those early days. I never felt that I had suffered because I had to learn something. In fact, it made me feel special.

Reading the letter from Sam Drukman, KB2WYC, one statement appears to point out a problem that we experience in our area, too. "I can take my trusty CB radio anywhere in the country without having to learn the PL tone frequencies of local repeaters and most importantly, I am never at the mercy of local ham elitists."

Learning the ins and outs of a modern transceiver may be a bit frustrating at first, but most hams don't find it as difficult a process as Mr. Drukman obviously did. He also implies that to place tone

access on a repeater is to "put him at the mercy of local ham elitists." I would suggest the purchase of *The ARRL Operating Manual* as a first step to help dispel his assumptions.

Mr. Drukman states that "unlike ham radio, CB is useful on a practical, day to day level." This is a statement from a person unable to make more than three contacts on 2-meter FM over a period of seven months! I fail to see how he could make such a comparison.

The cruel fact of the matter is this. Proficiency in ham radio requires *learning*. The rewards are tremendous; ham radio is more fun today than it has ever been. Does this make me an elitists? *Howard Friedman, WA2AFD, Schenectady, NY*

ANOTHER HAM LOST: When I was married 10 years ago, my new bride was puzzled at all the strange boxes and equipment I was unloading from the car into our new home. A few days later I started to put up the antennas. That's when the strange looks became questions. I told her that this was my Amateur Radio station. I extolled the virtues of our hobby and assured her that we were all people of good character.

Recently her curiosity peaked again. She purchased a Technician study guide and asked for a hands-on demonstration of ham radio. One afternoon we tuned through 20 meters and found someone making telephone patches from a base in Antarctica to families here in the States. My wife was glued to the radio for hours.

Later we decided to try 75-meter phone. What a mistake! First we heard a death threat. Then we tuned up the band to find someone ranting in language my father would have washed my mouth out for. Then we stumbled across an operator who was obviously drunk. As he began to describe his sexual conquests in graphic detail, I reached for the OFF switch.

We heard plenty of call signs - all of them Amateur Extra Class, and many of them were veteran hams. My wife tossed her study guide in the trash, another potential ham lost to the hobby. And everyone was so terrified that the codeless license would usher in a horde of poor operators. Guess what! The poor operators are already here - and they've been Extras for years. *Rick Wallis, KA4VHV, Resaca, Georgia.*

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

ANIMAL STORIES ARE EVERYWHERE

I never cease to be amazed by some of the outstanding and unexplained senses animals have. Like the hound dog whose smell is so sensitive that it can track a rabbit while running at full speed. Or the Osprey that, while on the fly, swoop down and grab a fish out of the water.

Just recently, a large turtle walked across the street in a more or less straight line toward my house. It came up the driveway and went straight into the garage. When it reached the back wall it was stymied. I assume it was looking for a pond or lake. I carried it down the street to a small lake and sat it down next to and facing the water. It sat there for a few minutes, then began walking in a circle. When it got to a certain point in the circle, it turned and went (away from the water) the same direction it was traveling when it entered my garage. Something was apparently telling the turtle exactly which direction to go and the turtle would have it no other way.

I recall a couple of animal stories I feel are worth telling: A flock of ostrich were crossing a desert. They came upon a small oasis with many trees and bushes. All but one ostrich went around the oasis on both sides. The one, unbeknown to the others, went through the bushes making loud noises. The others hearing the noise, thought it was a predator and became afraid. As the myth has it, they all stuck their heads in the sand. When the one came out of the bushes he saw the others with their heads

in the sand, and simply asked, "where is everybody?"

The following is one of my favorite animal stories: A lady went into a pet store to buy some gold fish. Near the front door was a parrot on a perch. As the lady walked by, the parrot said, "Hey, you!"
Lady: "Who, me?"
Parrot: "Yeah, you!"
Lady: "What?"
Parrot: "You are the ugliest thing I ever saw!"

The manager was standing near by and heard it all. He grabbed the parrot by the neck, slapped his face, threw him to the floor and told him that if he ever talked to a customer like that again, he would wring his neck and have him for dinner.

The parrot managed to climb back on the perch just at the time the lady walked by him on her way out.

Parrot: "Hey, you!"
Lady: "Who, me?"
Parrot: "Yeah, you!"
Lady: "What?"

Just then the parrot saw the manager walk up behind him.
Parrot: "You know what!!"

KUDOS
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO PREPARED FOOD AND/OR SERVED IT AT THE MARCH MEETING. I OWE YOU ONE!
MARIE N2USO, BONNIE KE4MXB, PATTY KF4MUV AND PAT KF4LTY. DID I MISS ANYONE? SHERRY KF4HTC

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1996	5703.59
Deposits Year To Date	971.50
TOTAL INCOME	**6675.09**
Expenditures	2188.29
BALANCE AS AT 03/31/97	**4486.80**

MARCH MINUTES

By Marty Coin WD4JNM

The meeting was called to order at 1915 hours. After the Pledge to the Flag and introduction of members and guests, Bill Eppley W2SDB played Happy Birthday on his harmonica for the hams having birthdays in March.

Pike, W4EPU presented a very interesting program on the recently declassified documents regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis.

On April 3, the IRARC club in Cocoa will have their annual white elephant sale. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Bill Eppley at 784-2118 for directions.

Bud K4CWG brought the members up to date on the renovation of the bus owned by the city that is to be converted into a Communications Center for emergencies.

There were 46 members and guests at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2100 hours.

The phone numbers listed below give time to the minute and second (NOT TOLL FREE)
900-410-8463. NAVA CLOCK TIME
303-499-7111 - WWV TIME

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 276 (200 regular, 70 family, 6 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: 000000 THOMAS KELLY
W4UTU CLAYTON THOMPSON

RENEWALS:
KE4AEF HOWARD MCNITT
N4AWX BRIAN VAN ALSTINE
KC4WZA JANET VAN ALSTINE
KB4BHS GLENN LEE
KT4CP BUCK THORNE
KE4TTZ SANDY THORNE
N2CTQ LOU GENCORELLI
N2USO MARIE GENCORELLI
KR4CY BILL PALM
KF4CXZ DEBBIE HARRINGTON
WB4DXD BUCK TOMLINSON
KE4HJQ RON MORGAN
KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
AC4JX DAVE CREASMAN
KD4LDR BILL DIMEO
KE4HDF ANGIE DIMEO
W0LRC COFFEE COFFMAN
K4EGV CHARMAINE COFFMAN
KE4LSV KENT THOMPSON
KD4LXG PAUL WYNN
AF4N WES WHITLEY
KE4EJ SANDY WHITLEY
KC4TE GENE MANN
KT4UD LEONARD ZBIEGIEN
KF4UN DAVE POST
KD4VFS STEVE MORRIS
KD4VFU JACK HALL
KE4RFJ DEBBIE BUTTON
AD4VU DAN WOOD
AD4VV BOBBI SUE WOOD
N4WIN WALT FOSTER

HAMFESTS: 04/26-27 Gainesville

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